Teamworks, August 25, 1998

Aurora Health Care

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The next time you order eggs at a Metro Region food service site, they will be thoroughly cooked. Please don't order eggs “sunny-side up,” “over easy” or soft-cooked.

Metro Region food management has begun serving fresh eggs fully cooked and using pasteurized liquid eggs for omelets and scrambled eggs.

This change is being made because state health officials have detected an increase in the number of people in Wisconsin becoming ill in the past year from an infection of the bacteria Salmonella enteritidis, according to Michele Fairchild, director of food management in the Metro Region. Investigations by Wisconsin’s department of health and family services show that contaminated eggs are primarily responsible, and consumers are warned to avoid eating raw or undercooked eggs.

“Even normal-appearing eggs can be contaminated,” Michele says. “If contaminated eggs are eaten raw or undercooked, the bacteria can cause illness.”

The symptoms of the illness include fever, abdominal cramps and diarrhea. The diarrhea may be bloody, and the patient may have to be hospitalized. Elderly people, infants, pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems may have a more severe illness.

“We’re asking employees to understand that the food management department in the Metro Region has to comply with the guidelines issued by the state and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to thoroughly cook every egg served. And to help our patients and visitors understand that these regulatory guidelines are for their own well being,” Michele says.

Employees with questions about this policy should contact the manager of food service at their site.

With a name like Vince Lombardi, you’ve got to be a winner. That’s the idea behind a major advertising campaign Aurora will launch Sept. 6 to promote Vince Lombardi Cancer Care.

The ad campaign will include television, radio, newspaper and billboard ads that feature cancer survivors and physicians. The campaign stresses the importance of early detection of cancer, and as part of the campaign we will be offering a packet of materials called a “Personal Game Plan” for cancer, which will include a health risk appraisal.

“Vince Lombardi Cancer Care operates according to the beliefs of that great Packers coach,” says Barb Capstran, a marketing project manager for the Metro Region. “Winning takes faith and discipline, strength and determination.”

Vince Lombardi Cancer Care encompasses a network of programs and facilities that offer cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment. The first Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic within the Aurora system was based at St. Luke’s Medical Center. Other clinics have since been established at the Aurora Health Center in Slinger and in Sheboygan, in association with the Eastern Wisconsin Regional Cancer Center. Additional clinic locations in Kenosha and Manitowoc and at St. Luke’s South Shore, Cudahy, are under development. Other sites are under consideration.

Vince Lombardi Cancer Care is named for Coach Lombardi, who took the Green Bay Packers to five NFL championships in seven years, including victories in Super Bowls I and II. He died of cancer in 1970 at the age of 56.

The advertising will appear in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Slinger and Kenosha.
Loss Prevention Services wants all Aurora employees to know about ongoing attempts to steal Aurora's telephone service, says Mike Cummings, director-loss prevention services.

"Recently, individuals have been successful in posing as either physicians or telephone company workers and obtaining outside lines from our employees," Mike says. "This has allowed them to steal international calls, which have been billed back to our organization."

These scams involve the thief posing as either a physician with an emergency requesting an outside line or a telephone company worker stating that he is attempting to repair the voice mail system and requesting an outside line.

Employees need to be on guard not to provide outside telephone connections for any person unknown to them. If an individual is persistent, Mike suggests routing the call to the switchboard.

Employees who have questions or information about this scam may call the Aurora Loss Prevention Services office at 647-6433.

Employees in Aurora's Metro Region are reminded to give their complete name and phone number, not just a first name and four-digit extension, when leaving telephone messages, and to key in their complete number when paging others.

Many employees have expanded job responsibilities, either throughout the region or at several sites, so it's important that the person receiving the message knows who called and where to return the call.

So when you leave a telephone message, say, "Call Jane Smith at Hartford Memorial at 670-3126," instead of, "Call Jane at 3126." When you page someone, use "414-670-3126," not just "3126."

To speed return calls, employees who have voice mail also may wish to include the following information on their pre-recorded outgoing voice mail message:

- Whether or not they will be in that day (or when they will be back in the office).
- How frequently they will be checking their telephone messages.
- A suggestion that the caller leave convenient times for returning the call.
- Name and phone number of another person who might be able to help a caller, if possible.
Shoo the Flu and Pneumonia Too is the theme of the Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin's 1998 influenza and pneumonia vaccination program. The VNA will offer more than 350 vaccination clinics at public locations this fall.

“This year's program is likely to be the largest in the VNA's history,” said Lisa Taylor, RN, coordinator of the program. “We're offering the most vaccination sites ever, which means we are going to be able to help more people than ever avoid influenza.”

The VNA program is Wisconsin's largest flu vaccination effort and has been offered in Milwaukee for the past six years. Last year more than 56,000 people were vaccinated through the VNA program. It takes more than 160 nurses and 300 volunteers to run the clinics.

The 1998 Shoo the Flu and Pneumonia Too clinics will be offered from Oct. 6 through Nov. 14, the dates recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. Vaccinations given earlier or later than this may not be as effective.

The VNA clinics will offer both flu and pneumonia vaccinations at convenient locations such as grocery stores and pharmacies throughout the following counties: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Dodge, Racine, Kenosha, Walworth, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Calumet and Fond du Lac. The $10 fee for the flu shot is covered by Medicare Part B. Participants must be 18 or older to receive the vaccine.

The pneumonia vaccine will be available for those 65 and older and for younger people who have a chronic illness, such as diabetes, liver, heart or lung disease or other diseases that lower the body's ability to fight infections. The $20 fee for the pneumonia shot is covered by Medicare Part B.

For information or to receive a complete flu clinic schedule, call (414) 328-4450 or (800) 548-7580.

More about influenza

The influenza virus spreads quickly through person-to-person contact, causing millions of Americans to get sick between the months of November and April.

“In most people, flu results in a few days of discomfort,” said Lisa Taylor, RN. “However, in others, particularly the frail and elderly, flu symptoms may last for weeks and even result in pneumonia.”

Avoid influenza by being immunized. The VNA particularly recommends the shot for people in the following categories:

- Those 65 or older.
- People with chronic heart, lung, kidney or metabolic diseases.
- Those whose immune systems have been compromised by cancer treatment, HIV infection or other causes.
- Health care workers and those who care for high-risk individuals.
- Anyone who has regular contact with large numbers of people.

Side effects from the flu vaccine are rare. The flu vaccine cannot give someone the flu. However, the arm muscle may feel sore for a day or two after vaccination. In addition, anyone who is allergic to eggs, who is ill with a fever, or who has ever suffered from Guillain Barre syndrome should consult a physician before getting the flu or pneumonia vaccine.
Breast cancer stamp unveiled at Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic

Here’s a new way to support breast cancer research: Buy the new 40-cent, first-class breast cancer stamps. Of the 8 cents extra beyond regular first-class postage, 6 cents goes to government-sponsored breast cancer research.

Wisconsin’s unveiling of the stamp was held at the Vince Lombardi Cancer Clinic at St. Luke’s Medical Center on Thursday, July 30. Increased-rate stamps, called semipostals, have long been sold in a number of countries, but this is the first U.S. semipostal.

South Shore names Big Storm recipients

St. Luke’s South Shore Big Storm Award recipients for July were (from left): Mary Henderson, environmental services; Pat Ackerman, food service; Mary Culver, food service; and Kelly Manka, food service. July recipients not available for the photo were Donna Tischendorf, food service; Jonathan Scarpase, food service; Judy Amissah, emergency department; Gail Meinzer, emergency department; and Dr. David Munoz. St. Luke’s South Shore Big Storm awards recognize exceptional service.
Admissions up 5% in first half of 1998

St. Luke's Medical Center’s total patient admissions for the first six months of 1998 increased 5% over 1997 levels, primarily because of strong increases in the medical center’s cancer treatment, internal medicine, family practice, orthopedics and rehabilitation programs.

“We are pleased with these numbers and look forward to this positive trend continuing during the second half of the year,” said Mark Wiener, administrator.

Combined total admissions to the four Milwaukee-area Aurora hospitals rose 1.5% during the first six months of 1997. Total admissions to Milwaukee-area general acute care hospitals through June 30 increased 1.8%.

Welcome new employees

Evette Arvelo          Food Management/ Nutrition Services
Nicole Barg            Food Management/ Nutrition Services
Heather Berens        Coffee Shop
Veronica Blawat       ICU Family Waiting
Kari Bronner          3 CD
Connie Bronstad       5 GHJK
Andrea Butler         ICU Float Pool
Lola Conner           CVICU
Christina De Boer     3 EF
Theresa Fitzgerald-Davis Business Office
Tom Freund            Information Services
Anne Gehring, PT      Physical Therapist
Debbie Haas           Centralized Employment
Laura Haase           4 CD
Perry Henry           Business Office

Diane Holinka         CICU
Karen Jelinek         3 CD
Shannon Kusserow      Social Services
Nicole Lubcke         CVICU
Carrie McAdams        CVICU
Jackie McGee          Business Market & Development
Angie Milone          9 LM
Jessica Muschinski    3CD
Karen Otto            5 LM
Julie Putz Betthaeuser 5 LM
Stacy Rogers          A.H.C. Laboratories
Edward Schilling      Hospitality Services
Kimberly              SICU
Schwerdtfeger         Amy Sisson  5 LM
Crystal Smith         CVICU
Shannon Sponder       8 GHJK
Mike Stasik           2 EF
Andrea St. Louis      4 EF
Susan Strozyk         4 CD
Beth Thiry            CVICU
Jennifer Waldron      5 LM
Pamela White          Laboratory Medicine

Medical terminology course offered

A medical terminology course is being offered to Aurora employees through the University of Wisconsin -Milwaukee School of Allied Health Professions. The course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of medical terminology. It is available as either a two-credit or non-credit (audit) class.

The 16-week course will meet from 4:30 to 6:20 p.m. on Mondays, from Sept. 14 through Dec. 14, in
Last call for touch football

Are you ready for some football? Enjoy exercise, competition and good, safe fun! St. Luke's is sponsoring a team in the Milwaukee County Men's Touch Football League. Practices have started, and play runs through a seven-week schedule, usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 7 or 8 p.m. at KK Parkway, 20th and Oklahoma, or McGovern Field, 35th and Silver Spring. Players must be 18 or older and be St. Luke's employees or members of employees' immediate families. For information, call Kevin Meunier at home at 502-0943. The fee is $10 for Milwaukee County residents or $20 for non-residents.

Hyperbaric Medicine supervisor promotes diving safety on Lake Michigan

This summer, Steve Fabus, supervisor of the Hyperbaric Medicine Department at St. Luke's Medical Center, has become involved as a diving medicine specialist and as the Midwest Divers Alert Network coordinator, working with this community-based committee to address accident prevention, emergency response and treatment for diving accidents that occur on Lake Michigan. Representatives from the recreational diving community, dive shops, charter boat operators, Milwaukee Fire, Police and Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Coast Guard formed the core of this group.

The committee's objectives include establishing guidelines for divers and responders who are involved in the recreational and commercial underwater activities and to promote safety within the federal waters of the United States Coast Guard Milwaukee station. This area includes all of Lake Michigan from the Illinois border to Escanaba, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"The committee worked to revise the Coast Guard's response checklist and to better coordinate and communicate referrals of dive accidents to St. Luke's Medical Center's Hyperbaric Medicine Department, the only multi-place chamber facility in Wisconsin," Steve says.

Patients transferred to hospitals other than St. Luke's Medical Center will have the benefit of consultation and transfer assistance to the chamber facility, coordinated by the Coast Guard. The Milwaukee-area Police, Sheriff, and Fire Rescue units will communicate with and transport all dive accident victims within their area of operation directly to St. Luke's Medical Center.

"The committee also developed a list of dive sites with location coordinate numbers that will assist the United States Coast Guard, Milwaukee Fire Department and Milwaukee Police Department, along with other water safety units, in quickly locating boats with injured divers," Steve says. "It worked to develop checklists and safety guidelines that will be distributed through dive shops and other facilities frequented by divers. These guidelines outline minimally acceptable practices and equipment necessary to improve diving safety. These practices will be monitored by the Coast Guard and other policing units to encourage compliance."

He added, "Sport diving is increasing in popularity, and the changes in sport diving practices on Lake Michigan make this a very proactive program. Historically, 20 to 30 dive accident victims are treated in the Great Lakes region each year. Diving fatalities have been on the increase the last few years. This is a great community effort, working with governmental agencies to help keep this unique sport a safe one."

Please send us your news

We want to recognize the accomplishments of St. Luke's Medical Center employees in this newsletter. Please share news about your professional accomplishments (graduations, honors, certifications earned, presentations given in the community, etc.) Information may be submitted to Kathy Muszynski by phone (920) 803-9595 fax (920) 803-9596, or preferably by e-mail (muszyn@execpc.com). The deadline for the next insert is Aug. 28. Please include the name of a person to contact for more information.
**Is there a pregnancy in your future?**

Here's a free class designed to help you make good health and lifestyle choices before you become pregnant.

6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16, at St. Luke's Medical Center
7 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at West Allis Memorial Hospital

To register, call Childbirth Education Services at 649-7726 or toll-free at (888) 524-8555.

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**West Allis Memorial Hospital Offers Free Health Screenings**

Appointments are required.

**Hearing screening and referral,**
every Monday, call 328-7410.

**Glaucoma screening,**
every Thursday, call 328-6115.

**Diabetic foot screening,**
8 a.m. to noon
every third Thursday, call 328-6198.

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**Senior Celebration**

**Milwaukee County Zoo**
9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 4

Sponsored by Aurora Health Care, Friendship Village and Freedom 55/65 with Zoo Pride, WOKY radio and Blue Cross & Blue Shield United of Wisconsin. Free admission to those 60 and older and members of Freedom 55/65. Parking is $5 per car, $12 per bus. For information call, (414) 771-3040.

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**Endoscopic Therapeutic ERCP Conference for Nurses & Associates**

Oct. 2 & 3
St. Luke's Medical Center
Steinke Auditorium
Offered by St. Luke's Pancreatic Biliary Services in conjunction with Gastroenterology Consultants Ltd.
The fee is $200. The deadline to register and pay is Sept. 11.

Call 649-5889 for information.

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**AMG - Milwaukee West**

**New Baby, Changing Emotions**

Join other new mothers. Explore causes of the baby blues. Get help. Lead by Margaret Malnory, MSN, RN, and Vani Ray, MD. Sponsored by Women’s Health Services and Aurora Behavioral Health Services.

7 to 8 p.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month

Aurora Medical Group
4025 N. 92nd St., Wauwatosa
To register, call Laura, (414) 427-3400

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**Milwaukee Auxiliary of the VNA**

**Charitable Care Fund**

Rummage Sale
8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
St. James Catholic Church
11300 N. St. James Lane, 28W Mequon
Household items, back-to-school items, hobby materials, clothing and more will be for sale.
Volunteers Needed to Help Children and Families

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin needs volunteer respite care providers for special needs children (physically handicapped, developmentally delayed, emotionally disturbed or children from families under stress). Respite care is the temporary care of a special needs child so that parents or foster parents get a needed break.

For information, call (414) 453-7400.

Free Asthma Forum
Central Middle School
1100 Cedar Street, Hartford

Sept. 29, 7-8:30 p.m.
“What is asthma?”

Oct. 6, 7-8:30 p.m.
“Managing your asthma: exercise concerns, environmental impact, nutrition and medications”

For information, call Graceanne Forsyth, Hartford Memorial Hospital, (414) 670-7633; to register, call the American Lung Association of Wisconsin, (800) 586-4872.

Be an Aurora Walker!

Aurora Health Care is sponsoring a team of walkers in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk to Cure Diabetes on Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

For more information and registration forms, call Cathy Kimmick, (414) 219-7273 or Jodi Moris, (414) 647-3010.

Donate blood, 2 to 6 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month. Call (800) 243-5124 for an appointment.

Aurora Behavioral Health Services

September Community Programs

Sept. 15 A Smart Start to Success at School
Sept. 17 Ready to Learn: Preparing Your Child for School
Sept. 23 Talking to Kids about Alcohol and Drugs
Sept. 28 Is the Stress of Modern Life Giving You the Blues?
Sept. 29 The Art of Relaxation

These evening programs are offered in Glendale, Franklin, Wauwatosa and Milwaukee. To register, call the toll-free 24-hour registration line, (888) 771-ABHS (2247). All Aurora Behavioral Health Services (ABHS) programs are free.

St. Luke’s & St. Luke’s South Shore

Replacements for broken or deteriorated service excellence recognition pins are now available. To replace your Golden Sneaker pin, see Alice Witz, SLMC administration. To replace your Big Storm pin, see Jane Wagner, SLSS administration.

Questions may be addressed to Allen Stasiewski, (414) 649-6067.